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A letter was read from Clot Bey, M. D., dated Cairo, Egypt, Jan 21, 1846, acknowledging the reception of his diploma as a correspondent, and expressing his desire and intention to further the objects of the Academy.

Dr. Morton offered some observations (intended for publication in the American Journal of Science) on the Ethnography and Archæology of the Aboriginal race of America.

Dr. Morton called attention to the cretaceous fossils presented this evening by Mr. Lewis Germain, and especially to the numerous fine fragments of *Ammonites Delawareensis*, of which only a single specimen had hitherto been discovered in the cretaceous beds of New Jersey or Delaware. Even that specimen had been lost or mislaid, and there remained no voucher for the species, excepting an uncertain fragment from Alabama, which is now identified with the *A. Delawareensis*, by means of Mr. Germain's collection.

The *Scaphites Cuvieri* is more perfect than any other hitherto found, excepting only the specimen in Mr. Conrad's cabinet, and which is figured in Dr. Morton's synopsis of organic remains.

The *Baculites ovatus* of Say, heretofore a very rare species, is here represented by nearly twenty finely characterised specimens. The *Nautilus Dekayi* is also almost perfect; and the *Ammonites placenta*, *Pholadomya occidentalis*, *Pecten quinquecostatus*, a *Strombus*, *Turritella*, and various other genera, are found in this remarkable series, which was obtained from a single marl excavation, about five miles east of Burlington, in New Jersey.

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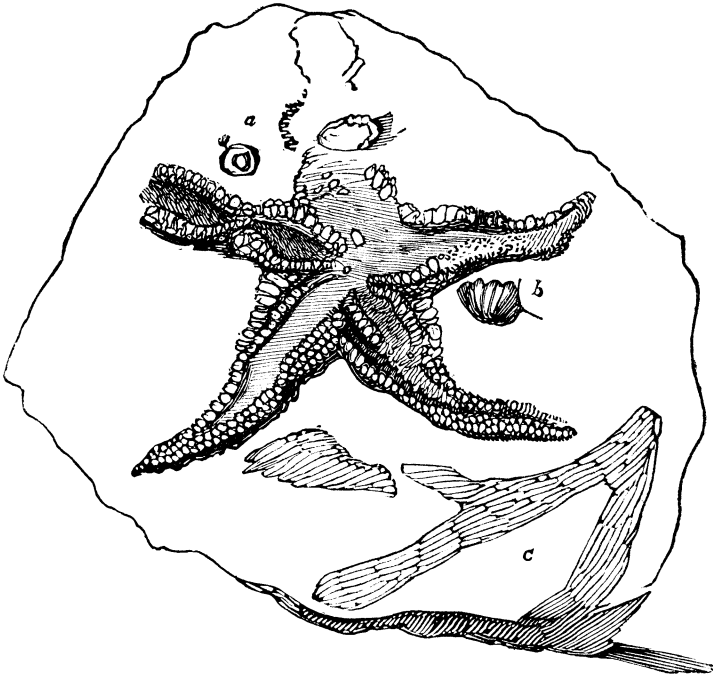
*Meeting for Business, March 31, 1846.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee to whom was referred the following notice by Prof. Locke, (contained in a letter addressed to Dr. Morton, and read at the meeting of March 10th,) of an *Asterias* from the blue limestone of Cincinnati, reported in favor of publication.

"I herewith send you a drawing of an *Asterias* from the blue limestone of Cincinnati. It seems to be five-rayed and *free*, thus

differing essentially from the "Agelacrinites" (Asteriacrinites) of the New York reports, which is also found here, attached, almost always, to a *Strophomena* or some other large shell, but rather rare. This last it will be recollected, has five rays extended on an acicular disk, reaching even beyond the rays. The specimen from which this drawing has been made, is so far as I know, the only one which has been found here; it is therefore rare. Whether it be identical with an *Asterias* described by Dr. Troost as occurring in the rocks of Tennessee, I cannot say, as I have never seen his account.



*Asterias antiquata*.—Blue limestone, Cincinnati.

*a*, An entrochite.

*b*, *Atrypa minnta*?

*c*, *Ceripora milliporacea*. Locke.

"I saw in the proceedings of your Society a notice of Dr. Taylor's specimens, describing them as from the *carboniferous limestone*. Mr. Featherstonhaugh and Dr. Troost have given authority, I believe, for calling this limestone the carboniferous, and in a paper read before our geological Association, I maintained the same views chiefly from *Lithological* characters. The more accurate test by the fossil remains, I am convinced determines our limestone to be the equivalent of the Lower Silurian. With this view it is interesting to find the *Asterias* at so low a point in the geological column; as it was formerly supposed not to extend below even the secondary rocks."

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The Committee on Mr. Edward Harris's paper on the difference of level between the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and those of the Atlantic Ocean, reported in favor of publication.

*On the Difference of Level between the Waters of the Gulf of Mexico and those of the Atlantic Ocean.*

By EDWARD HARRIS.

While on a passage along the coast of Florida in the spring of 1844, in the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Nautilus*, Capt. Waldron, having on board Mr. Stacy, U. States Commissioner for the inspection of the Lighthouses, we stopped on the 28th of April to examine at Key Biscayne, the ruins of the lighthouse burnt by the Indians in 1836. The next day we took the boats with kegs to procure water for the vessel; passed inside of Cape Florida, and ascended the Miami River about five miles to where it issues from the Everglades. I was surprised to find that the water from the everglades falls into the river over an exceedingly porous limestone rock resembling Travertine, so open, that in numerous places at the foot of the rapids, which are about two hundred yards in length, the water spouts up from the small round holes in the rock, in little natural fountains of from one foot to eighteen inches in height. I estimated the fall at from seven to eight feet, which cannot be far from the truth, as there is a mill at their foot for grinding the Coontie root, (*Zamia integrifolia*,

from which the Florida arrow root is made,) having a dam six feet high, with a fall in the tail-race to high water in the river, of not less than 18 inches. There had been a severe drought of five months, and the bed of the everglades was quite dry, with the exception of the brook running over the rapids, which, as far up as I explored it, lay upon the travertine rock, at about eighteen inches below the level bed of the everglades of hard sand, and covered with a strong wiry grass from two to three feet high. This fact of the fall of the waters of the everglades into the Atlantic, has, so far as I can ascertain, hitherto remained unpublished; nor have I been able to learn that it was known to our officers during the war. Their operations were principally on the Gulf side of the Peninsula, where they entered and passed long distances into the everglades without meeting with obstruction to the boat navigation. It appears to me that, considered in connection with the great rapidity of the Gulf stream in passing through the Straits of Florida, indicating a flow from a higher level, this fall is a very strong link in the chain of evidence which goes to prove that the sea is at a higher level on the Western than on the Eastern coast of the peninsula of Florida.

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ELECTION.

The Rev. Thomas S. Savage, M. D., of Cape Palmas, Africa, was elected a Correspondent.

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*Slated Meeting, April 7, 1846.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

A large collection of Reptilia, in spirits, from Brazil. Presented by Mr. Edward Donnelly, through Mr. Cassin.  
A very fine collection of African shells, presented by the Rev. Dr. Savage, of Monrovia, through Mr. Phillips, consisting of the following :